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**NEWS RELEASE**

### **ADVANCE FEE PROMOTER ACCUSED OF FRAUD**

May 19, 2006. Salt Lake City, Utah . . . . The Utah Division of Securities announced today that it issued an Order to Show Cause against Peak Funding, Inc. and Leland Wheeler, both of New York. The two are accused of soliciting investments in a "Secured Business Loan" in which an investor would receive a low-interest loan of \$300,000 in exchange for an up-front fee.

The Order to Show Cause alleges that Wheeler called a Utah investor offering loans through Peak Funding. Wheeler told the investor that the investor was already approved for a \$200,000 loan from an unnamed lender. Wheeler said privacy concerns precluded him from disclosing the identity of the lender until the investor sent an "insurance deposit" of \$4,764.61. Wheeler said this deposit would be held in a secure account and earn interest while the loan was processed.

After the initial "deposit" was sent, Wheeler called again saying the lender wanted an additional deposit. The investor sent a second deposit of \$4,759.44. On two later occasions, the investor sent additional deposits of \$4,183.00 and \$2,072.99, based on Wheeler's claims that additional security was needed and promising to increase the amount of the loan. In the end, the investor paid \$14,781.03 and never received any loan or a refund of his "deposits."

The Order to Show Cause alleges that Wheeler and Peak Funding made false statements and omitted to disclose necessary information when soliciting investments. The Division is seeking a cease and desist order and \$40,000 in fines. A hearing is set for June 22.